

**Environmental Restoration (ER) Project
Cerro Grande Fire
Accelerated Action Information Sheet**

Potential Release Site (PRS) 02-007 Septic System

Technical Area (TA)-2, located in Los Alamos Canyon, housed several reactors, including the Omega West and Water Boiler Reactors. The reactors were shutdown, removed from the nuclear facilities list, and placed into the Laboratory's Decontamination and Decommissioning program.



PRS History: PRS 02-007 is the site of a decommissioned reinforce concrete septic tank (Structure 2-43) and the drain line that received sanitary wastes from Building 2-1 until the 1950s. Overflow from the tank was transported to a canyon outfall via the 6-inch clay drain line. Memos from 1957 and 1958 indicate that the sludge and the effluent from the septic tank were contaminated as a result of reactor operations in the laboratories or a chemical waste shack (Structure 2-3) connected to the main sewer. Potential contaminants included cesium 137, strontium 90, technetium 99, cobalt 60, tritium, uranium, isotopic plutonium, chromium, and mercury. The Omega West Reactor sanitary waste system was connected to the TA-41 treatment plant in the mid- 1970s. In 1986, the tank and drain line were decommissioned and removed. The tank received spring-fed water leakage pumped from the basement of Building 2-1 during the interim years. No contamination was detected in the tank at the time of decommissioning; however, elevated radioactivity was detected in soil near the outfall. The soil was removed as part of the decommissioning activities. Clean soil was added to the site, and the site was reseeded as part of site restoration immediately following the removal of the tank and line in 1986. Field screening was conducted in 1995. No concentrations of organic chemical and no alpha activity were detected above background levels. Beta/gamma activity was slightly elevated.

PRS 02-007 is listed on the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments module to the Laboratory's Hazardous Waste Facility permit. The ER Project has not proposed the site for no further action.

Issues of Concern: The area upstream of PRS 02-007 burned during the Cerro Grande fire. The intensity of upstream burn was low to moderate. There is little potential for erosion or scouring although the site is in close proximity to Los Alamos Creek. The site does not contain debris that could enter the flood watercourse. The structures were removed during the decommissioning activities in 1986.

Accelerated Action Status: PRS 02-007 was evaluated after the Cerro Grande fire. ER Project personnel determined that no action was required at this time. The septic tank and the contaminated soil were removed in 1986 when the site was decommissioned.

Related Documents:

"Solid Waste Management Units Reports," Vol. I of IV (TA-0 through TA-9) LANL Report LA-UR-90-3400, revised November 1990.
"RFI Work Plan for Operable Unit 1098 (TA-2, 41)," LANL Report LA-UR-92-3825, June 1993.